

# Easement

WO-320

1901

Girdletree Bank

Girdletree

Private

The old Girdletree bank is rare survivor of small village bank buildings in Worcester County. Since the Stockton bank has been demolished, the only other similarly designed bank stands in Newark. Notable features for the Girdletree bank include the pressed brick front, the slate roof with metal cresting, and the metal cornice that trims the perimeter of the roof. Few changes have been made to this structure since the early twentieth century.

Construction of the Girdletree bank is documented by an entry in the Wicomico News, a Salisbury paper, printed on January 2, 1902. The article announced,

The new bank of George L. Barnes & Co. opened its doors for business at Girdletree, in Worcester county this week. Girdletree is a thriving village and a large oyster shipping station. The new bank is the only one there. The members of the firm are George L. Barnes, a prosperous merchant of Girdletree, and Clayton J. Purnell, of Snow Hill, president of the Exchange and Savings Bank of Berlin, and attorney for the First National Bank of Snow Hill and the Pocomoke City National Bank.

The bank remained open until the 1930s when the Depression and resulting economic difficulties forced bank officials to close its doors.

# Easement

## HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GIRDLENER BANK

MHT Inventory Number: NO-320

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE  
COMMENCE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE  
1820-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
1. BANK BUILDING

*Enclosure*

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-320

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE L. BARNES & CO.- GIRDLETREE BANK

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number East side of MD Route 12 ☐ not for publication

city, town Girdletree ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. W0-320

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Girdletree Bank stands on the east side of MD Route 12 in the center of Girdletree, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story brick bank faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1901, the single-story seven-course common bond brick bank is distinguished by a pressed brick front and a steeply pitched slate roof. Attached to the back of the rectangular structure is a shed roofed addition.

The west (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking single-pane sash window. The boarded over door is topped by a single-pane transom and a segmental brick arch. A granite slab serves as the door sill. The adjacent window opening, set in a recessed bay, is marked by a segmental arch as well. The gable end is framed with a metal cornice, and fixed within the gable is a lunette window with radiating muntins. Granite slabs serve as the window sills as well. Rising through the center of the building is a single-flue brick chimney stack. The slate roof is trimmed with a metal cresting.

The south side of the bank is marked by an original single-pane sash window topped by segmental arch, and a later smaller window to the east. The north side is defined by two original single-pane sash windows with segmental arches.

The east end is partially covered by the single-story rear shed addition.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-320

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The old Girdletree bank is rare survivor of small village bank buildings in Worcester County. Since the Stockton bank has been demolished, the only other similarly designed bank stands in Newark. Notable features for the Girdletree bank include the pressed brick front, the slate roof with metal cresting, and the metal cornice that trims the perimeter of the roof. Few changes have been made to this structure since the early twentieth century.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of the Girdletree bank is documented by an entry in the Wicomico News, a Salisbury paper, printed on January 2, 1902. The article announced,

The new bank of George L. Barnes & Co. opened its doors for business at Girdletree, in Worcester county this week. Girdletree is a thriving village and a large oyster shipping station. The new bank is the only one there. The members of the firm are George L. Barnes, a prosperous merchant of Girdletree, and Clayton J. Purnell, of Snow Hill, president of the Exchange and Savings Bank of Berlin, and attorney for the First National Bank of Snow Hill and the Pocomoke City National Bank.

The bank remained open until the 1930s when the Depression and resulting economic difficulties forced bank officials to close its doors.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-320

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Worcester County date 10/20/90

street & number Worcester County Courthouse telephone 301-632-1194

city or town Snow Hill state MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Pocomico News, January 2, 1902

The new bank of George L. Barnes & Co. opened its doors for business at Girdletree, in Worcester county this week. Girdletree is a thriving village and a large oyster shipping station. The new bank is the only one there. The members of the firm are George L. Barnes, a prosperous merchant of Girdletree, and Clayton J. Purnell, of Snow Hill, president of the Exchange Savings Bank of Berlin, and attorney for the First National Bank of Snow Hill and the Pocomoke City National Bank.

Wo-320

Girdletree Bank, WO-320 or  
The George Barnes Bank, 1901  
Girdletree, Worcester County

Visited August 9, 1995

The exterior of the bank is adequately described in the yellow form prepared by Paul Touart. On the visit by the OPS staff on the above date, the interior was visited and the following notes taken:

The interior is composed of a vestibule and banking room, behind which are two rooms, originally Mr. Barnes office and the vault. The frame lean-to was added when the bank was converted into a residence. None of the original furnishings remain.

Original trim, doors and windows remain in most areas. The floor was originally wood, but that was removed and a concrete floor poured in its place. The drop ceiling conceals the original plaster ceiling.

Michael Bourne



